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REMARKS—General

By the above amendment, applicants have modified independent claims 1 and 11 to overcome the technical rejections of the last Office Action.

The Claims Rejection Under § 112

The last O.A. rejected all claims on the basis of introduction of new matter. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended for greater clarity. However, that the present invention feeds in additional line to enable a page turn—without the user's contacting the device itself—is clearly stated in the original specification filed November 12, 2003.

Pp. 5-6 describe how the force of the turning page overcomes the tensioning mechanism's resistance and pulls out additional line, which is fed from the reel: "When a page is to be turned, *the user simply grasps the page and turns it normally*, exerting slight force to overcome the gentle tension of the reel 14. The page glides smoothly across the monofilament 18 *as the reel 14 dispenses additional length* to allow the page to turn. ... The reel 14 retracts automatically to secure the monofilament 18 across the pages in unison with the completion of the page turn." [Emphasis supplied.]

P. 3 of the specification describes the preferred embodiment's tensioning mechanism as a "self-retracting reel" exerting a specific tension. Original dependent claims 3 and 13 also recite "a self-retracting reel." This is a known device which feeds additional line and automatically retracts it (as recited in claims 1 and 11), utilized in various fields of industry (e.g., to extend the reach of a set of keys).

P. 4 provides further support for a tensioning mechanism which feeds in additional line to enable page turning (from claims 1 and 11): "A self-retracting reel 14...dispenses a monofilament 18..."

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In addition, applicants prepared a brief video in conjunction with the Amendment faxed October 20, 2004, which clearly demonstrates the tensioning mechanism feeding in additional line to enable page turning, as detailed in the specification and recited in claims 1 and 11.

Thus the present specification clearly and completely teaches how to make and use the invention in general, and how the tensioning mechanism feeds additional line in particular.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the specification does comply with § 112 and therefore request consideration of the amended claims and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, applicants submit that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore they submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit.

Second Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

Applicants have amended the claims of this application so that they are proper, definite, and define novel structure which is also unobvious. If, for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2173.02 and § 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings. (This request was made previously on p. 22 of the Amendment faxed October 20, 2004, following the First Office Action.)

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Very respectfully,



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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission. I certify that on the date below I will fax this paper to GAU 3632 of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306.

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